(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 14 June 2001 (14.06.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 01/42335 A1

C08G 63/82, (51) International Patent Classification7: 85/00

Halle (DE). RUNKEL, Dietmar [DE/DE]; Feldschlösschenweg 48, 06201 Merseburg (DE).

- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/33386
- (74) Agent: KORFHAGE, Glenn, H.; Intellectual Property. P.O. Box 1967, Midland, MI 48641-1967 (US).
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 December 2000 (07.12.2000)
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT,

TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, YU, ZA, ZW.

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

- (30) Priority Data:
 - 60/170,054 60/249,324
- 10 December 1999 (10.12.1999) US 16 November 2000 (16.11.2000)
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY [US/US]; 2030 Dow
- Center, Midland, MI 48674 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WIEGNER. Jens-Peter [DE/DE]; Mendelejewstr. 3, 06130 Halle (DE). VOERCKEL, Volkmar [DE/DE]; Weisse Mauer 22, 06217 Merseburg (DE). MUNJAL, Sarat [US/DE]; Marperger Str. 18a, 04229 Leipzig (DE). ECKERT, Rolf [DE/DE]; Wolfener Str. 21, 06116 Halle (DE). FEIX, Gunter [DE/DE]; Oleanderweg 29, 06122 Halle (DE). SELA, Marion [DE/DE]; Willi-Bredel-Strasse 21, 06128
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CATALYST SYSTEMS FOR POLYCONDENSATION REACTIONS

(57) Abstract: The invention pertains to new catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions, for example for producing polyethylene terephthalate. In accordance with the invention, complex compounds with hydrotalcite-analogous structures of general formula [M(II)_{1-x}M(III)_x(OH)₂]^{x+}(Aⁿ⁻_{x/n}).mH₂O are used, wherein M(II) represents divalent metals, preferably Mg or Zn or NI or Cu or Fe(II) or Co, and M(III) represents trivalent metals, for example Al or Fe(III), and A represents anions, preferably carbonates or borates. These catalysts can be calcinated and can be used in combination with phosphorus compounds that contain at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen bond.

CATALYST SYSTEMS FOR POLYCONDENSATION REACTIONS

The invention pertains to new catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions.

5

10

15

20

25

30

The synthesis of polyesters, for example polyethylene terephthalate, requires the use of catalysts in the polycondensation step. The literature contains an abundance of patents describing the use of various catalytically active substances. Today especially antimony and titanium compounds are used on a large industrial scale in the manufacturing of polyethylene terephthalate. This is also reflected in the large number of patents that describe the use of such compounds. Polyester-soluble antimony compounds are described in US Patents 3,965,071; 3,998,793; 4,039,515; 4,116,942; 4,133,800; 4,454,312; 5,750,635; and 5,780,575 as polycondensation catalysts. Modified antimony derivatives (stabilization by substances with double bonds to prevent reduction to metallic antimony) are, for example, subjects of Patents US 4,067,856; US 4,067,857; and US 4,130,552. Antimony salts of trimellitic acid esters are likewise used as catalysts in the manufacturing of

Antimony salts of trimellitic acid esters are likewise used as catalysts in the manufacturing of polyethylene terephthalate (US 5,478,796). Titanium derivatives, especially tetraalkyl titanates, are protected in the Patents US 4,039,515; US 4,131,601; US 4,482,700; US 5,066,766; US 5,302,690; WO 97/45470; and US 5,744,571. A combination of sulfonic acid, titanate and antimony (or germanium) compound is the subject of US Patent 5,905,136. Germanium compounds are also described as catalysts for the polycondensation reaction (US 5,378,796; US 5,830,981; US 5,837,786; and US 5,837,800). Catalytically active compounds in a polycondensation reaction are likewise borates and acetates of zinc, calcium, cobalt, lead, cadmium, lithium, or sodium (US 4,115,371).

Defined silicon compounds (2-cyanoethyltriethoxysilane and 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane) are protected in a US Patent (US 4,077,944) as polycondensation catalysts.

The combination of several metal compounds is described in the following patents: US 4,080,317 (Sb/Pb/Zn, Sb/Pb/Ca, Sb/Zn, Sb/Pb/Mg, Sb/Pb/Ca/Mn, Sb/Pb/Ca/Zn, Sb/Pb/Li, Sb/Mn, Ti/Ca, Ge/Ga, Ge/Zn, and Ge/K); US 4,104,263 (Sb(Zr)/Zn(Ca,Mn)); US 4,122,107 (Sb/Zn(Ca,Mn)); US 4,356,299, US 4,501,878, and US 5,286,836 (Ti/Sb); US 4,361,694 (Ti/Si): US 4,468,489 (Ti,Zr,Ge,Zn); US 4,499,226 and US 5,019,640 (Sb/Co); US 5,008,230 (Co(Zn)/Zn(Mn,Mg,Ca)/Sb); US 5,138,024 and US 5,340,909 (Zn/Sb); US 5,565,545 and US 5,644,019 (Sb/Ge); US 5,596,069 (Co/Al); US 5,608,032 and US

5,623,047 (Sb/Co(Mg,Zn,Mn,Pb)); US 5,656,221 (Sb/Co/Mn); US 5,714,570 (Sb/Ti/Zn); and US 5,902,873 (Ti(Zr)/lanthanide). At least one constituent of these complex catalysts is a "classical" polycondensation catalyst, either antimony, titanium, or germanium.

Finely dispersed titanates are the subject of US Patent 5,656,716. Jointly precipitated titanium and silicon compounds and titanium and zirconium compounds are described in US Patents 5,684,116 and 5,789,528.

5

10

15

20

25

30

A polycondensation catalyst on the basis of zeolites (alkali or alkaline earth metal-modified aluminosilicate) is protected in US Patent 5,733,969. The use of titanium compounds leads to yellowing of the polyester produced during polycondensation and processing. Especially during the use of polyethylene terephthalate as a food packaging, this color is undesirable.

The use of antimony as a catalyst is permitted only within precisely established boundaries, since this substance, as a heavy metal, is physiologically problematic.

The goal of this invention is to discover a catalyst system for the polycondensation, especially of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, or polytrimethylene terephthalate, which is physiologically safe and makes it possible to use the polycondensation products for food packaging. In terms of catalytic activity in polycondensation and selectivity, it must be compatible with conventional catalysts and must not influence the processing properties of polyester at all or only to the desired degree.

Quite surprisingly, it was found that complex compounds with hydrotalcite-analogous structures of the general formula [M(II)_{1-x}M(III)_x(OH)₂]^{x+}(Aⁿ⁻_{x/n}).mH₂O, (the use of which was previously described only as a filler (US 5,362,457; US 5,225,115; JP 09 077,962; JP 02 308,848; JP 61 118,457; JP 56 059,864), in olefin isomerizations, as an adsorbents (halogen trapper), as a carrier material for catalysts, flame retardant, molecular sieve, anion exchanger and catalyst for alcohol reactions (isophorone synthesis), hydrogenations, polymerizations, and reforming reactions (F. Cavani, F. Trifiro, A. Vaccari, Catalysis Today 11 (1991), 173-301)), before or after calcination, alone or in combination with phosphorus compounds that contain at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen compound, are excellently suited for catalysis of polycondensation reactions, especially for the production of polyalkylene terephthalate.

In the formula mentioned, M(II) represents divalent metals, preferably Mg or Zn or Ni or Cu or Fe(II) or Co, and M(III) represents trivalent metals, preferably Al and Fe, and A represents anions, preferably carbonates or borates or titanyl compounds.

The particle size of the hydrotalcite used falls in the range of 0.1 to 50 μm , preferably 0.5 to 5 μm .

5

10

15

20

25

30

The calcination of the hydrotalcites can be performed at temperatures of 200°C to 800°C, preferably at 400°C to 650°C.

As phosphorus compounds which contain at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen bond, phosphoric acid esters or esters of phosphorous acid can be used.

The catalyst system in accordance with the invention is used in the concentration ratio of hydrotalcite to phosphorus compound of 1:0.5 to 1:4, preferably 1:1 to 1:2.

The untreated or the calcinated hydrotalcite-analogous derivatives in combination with phosphorus compounds as stabilizers with at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen bond show increased catalytic activity and selectivity in comparison to conventional catalysts and are characterized by high food compatibility.

It has been found that these substances, made up of several components, are highly catalytically selective, relatively independent of their composition, although the individual constituents catalyze polycondensation reactions either not at all or only with a very low selectivity and thus generate a high fraction of byproducts. It was also found that with the targeted selection of the constituents, surprisingly it was possible to influence the applications properties of the polyesters, for example the crystallization behavior. The polycondensation with the catalyst system in accordance with the invention is carried out under vacuum in a liquid phase at temperatures of 230°C to 280°C or in a solid phase at temperatures of 170 to 240°C.

The addition of phosphorus compounds with at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen bond leads to improved thermal stability of the polyesters, especially in the industrially required long residence times of the liquid polyesters under normal pressure in comparison to polyesters produced with conventional [catalysts], for example with catalysts on the basis of antimony and titanium compounds, but also in comparison to products produced under hydrotalcite catalysis.

Through the combination of hydrotalcite-analogous compound/stabilizer, molecular weight degradation and discoloration of the polyester can be lowered significantly without a negative influence on other important processing properties of the polyester, for example the crystallization behavior and the clarity of the final product.

In the following, the invention will be explained on the basis of exemplified embodiments.

5

10

15

20

25

In a 250-ml, single-necked flask with agitator and distillation attachment, 100 g precondensate of terephthalic acid and ethylene glycol with an average molecular weight was placed together with the catalyst. This apparatus was evacuated to about 0.5 mbar and purged with nitrogen. This process was repeated a total of three times. The glass flask was dipped into a hot salt bath at 280°C and the precondensate allowed to melt at this temperature. As soon as the melting was complete, vacuum was carefully applied.

Following termination of the polycondensation by purging with nitrogen, the product was allowed to cool in the flask, and the polyester was characterized according to its separation from the adhering glass.

The intrinsic viscosity (IV) was determined on an apparatus from the Schott Company (AVSPro) of 250 mg resin dissolved in 50 ml phenol/dichlorobenzene (1:1).

DSC measurements were performed on a Perkin-Elmer DSC 7.

The acetaldehyde determination took place according to the following procedure:

The PET material was precooled in liquid nitrogen and ground in an ultracentrifuge mill. The ground material was immediately weighed into a headspace vial and closed gas-tight with a septum. After holding a constant quantity of gas at 150°C for 90 minutes in the headspace sampler, the gas was injected onto the GC column, at a defined pressure. The color numbers were determined with a LUCI 100 spectrophotometer from the Lange Company.

Table 1 contains characteristic values of polyesters that were obtained by polycondensation reactions at temperatures of 280°C using various hydrotalcite catalysts.

Table 1. Characterization of polyethylene terephthalate from polycondensation reactions with various untreated or calcinated hydrotalcite-analogous derivatives

	248.6	254.3	251.7	250.1	252.9	252.3	254.4
78.0°F	163.2	143.5	153.5	150.8	154.2	153.5	152.8
16 ² (60)	198.9	197.1	184	183.2	179.3	175.2	185.3
Tg! (°C)	79.7	78.9	81.5	. 6:08	82.5	84.1	81.9
Acetaldehyde (ppm)	14.2	14.4	20.7	16.7	17.4	44	16.4
IV (dl/g)	0.7480	0.5648	0.7350	0.6862	0.8412	0.8893	0.6932
Reaction time (minutes)	180	180	165	150	150	06	180
Concentration (pprn)	350	100	250	200	0001	0001	500
Catalyst	Antimony (III) acetate	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720)	Zn ₆ Al ₂ (OH) ₁₆ CO ₃ *H ₂ O calcinated (18 hours,
Experiment no.	l (comparison example)	2 (example in acc. with the invention)	3 (example in acc. with the invention)	4 (example in acc. with the invention)	5 (example in acc. with the invention)	6 (example in acc. with the invention)	7 (example in acc. with the

Table 1 - Continued. Characterization of polyethylene terephthalate from polycondensation reactions with various untreated or calcinated hydrotalcite-analogous derivatives

	251.6				743.0		754.7	C.+C2		25150	0.107		220	723.1			7:152	
				L	177	<u> </u>		153.5			136.1 251.6			138.1			137.4	
		207 2	<u>:</u>		1087	r:000		180 4	t.\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		2018	0.103		201	7.107		6	200.8
		85.2	!		70 3	?		79.6			82.5			84.3			83.3	
	22.2		19.7				17.3			17.3			20.2			22.8		
		0.6617			0.7704			0.6302			0.7031			0.7608)		63580	7000
		210			150			165			180			120			135	
		500			1000			1000			1000			1000			1000	
A CATACOTO CO CATACOTO A CATACOTO	INIGARI2(OH)12(B3O3(OH)4)2*	H ₂ O calcinated	(18 hours, 450°C)	Mg ₄ Al ₂ (OH) ₁₂ (B ₃ O ₃ (OH) ₄) ₂ *	H ₂ O calcinated	(18 hours, 450°C)	Mg ₃ ZnAl ₂ (OH) ₁₂ (B ₃ O ₃ (OH) ₄)	₂ *H ₂ O calcinated	(18 hours, 450°C)	Mg2Zn2Al2(OH)12(B3O3(OH)4) ₂ *H ₂ O calcinated	(18 hours, 450°C)	MgZn ₃ Al ₂ (OH) ₁₂ (B ₃ O ₃ (OH) ₄)	2*H ₂ O calcinated	(18 hours, 450°C)	Zn ₄ Al ₂ (OH) ₁₂ (B ₁ O ₃ (OH) ₄) ₂ *	H ₂ O calcinated	(18 hours, 450°C)
0*/0.0.0.0.0	o (examble in	acc. with the	invention)	9*(example in	acc. with the	invention)	10*(example in	acc. with the	invention)	11 *(example in	acc. with the	invention)	12*(example in	acc. with the	invention)	13*(example in	acc. with the	invention

*The specification for producing the catalyst tested in this example can be found in: A. Bhattacharyya, D.B. Hall: Materials Synthesis and Characterization, 1997, 139-145.

'Glass temperature; 2 crystallization temperature; 3 cold crystallization; 4 melting point.

Table 1 clearly shows that all tested untreated or calcinated hydrotalciteanalogous derivatives have catalytic activity. The synthesized polyethylene terephthalate, depending on the catalyst used, has different processing-related properties.

An additional important criterion for assessing the suitability of untreated or calcinated hydrotalcite-analogous derivatives is their catalytic activity in so-called solid state polymerization (SSP).

For these experiments, six of the polyesters listed in Table 1 were subjected to SSP. For this purpose the products were left for 96 hours at 200°C in a vacuum drying oven. After cooling, characteristic values relevant for applications technology were determined.

The results of solid state polymerizations of polyethylene terephthalate are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Polyesters from solid state polymerization

Tin in	249.6	253	253	249.6	252.3	253.2	253.0	254.4
1000 TEC	166.9	156.1	161.5	161.5	162.8	155.5	140.8	161.5
	162.8	178.6	172.9	166.2	170.9	176.7	201.4	179.2
Tg (20)	84.1	82.2	83.9	83.1	84.4	84.6	83.5	82.7
Acetaldehyde (ppm)	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	6.0	9.0	9.0
IV (dl/g) after SSP	1.1891	0.7755	0.9549	1.0775	1.1005	1.301	0.8509	0.8009
IV (dl/g) affel- polycondensation	0.6932	0.5648	0.7350	0.6862	0.8412	0.8893	0.6617	0.6302
Concentration (ppm)	200	001	250	200	1000	0001	500	1000
Catalyst	Zn ₆ Al ₂ (OH) ₁₆ CO ₃ *H ₂ O calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al-Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720); calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Al ³ Mg-hydrotalcite (acc. to US Patent 5,437,720)	Mg ₄ Al ₂ (OH) ₁₂ (B ₃ O ₃ (OH) ₄) ₂ *H ₂ O calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)	Mg,Al ₂ (OH) ₁₂ (B ₃ O ₃ (OH) ₄) ₂ *H ₂ O calcinated (18 hours, 450°C)
No		2	3	4	5	9	7	∞

Table 2 shows the fundamental suitability of the untreated or calcinated hydrotalcite-analogous derivatives as catalysts for polycondensation reactions in both liquid and solid phase.

It is especially important that it is possible by selecting the constituents of
these complex catalysts to systematically influence the process technology properties of the
polyester resins, for example the crystallization behavior.

The use of the hydrotalcite catalysts in accordance with the invention in combination with phosphorous compounds which contain at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen bond is described in the examples that follow.

10 Example 14 (Comparison Example)

15

20

25

30

In a 200 liter reactor of alloyed steel, a suspension of 60.675 kg terephthalic acid and 1.44 kg isophthalic acid were placed in 31.6 kg ethylene glycol. Under agitation, this reaction mixture was treated with 45.5 g antimony triacetate and 8.125 g cobalt acetate tetrahydrate in 1000 g ethylene glycol, and 34.65 g tetramethylammonium hydroxide in 500 g ethylene glycol. The closed reactor was heated to 272°C. At 2.8 bar the slow expansion of the pressurized container was started. After about 20 minutes under normal pressure, 12 g phosphoric acid in 500 g ethylene glycol were added. Then the liquid phase polymerization was started by slow application of the vacuum. After about 60 minutes the final vacuum of about 4 mbar was reached. The end of the reaction was shown by the attainment of a defined rotary momentum. The reaction vessel was relaxed with nitrogen, and the reactor emptied through several nozzles over a period of about 60 minutes into a water bath. The product strands were immediately granulated.

The molecular weight and the color of various product batches were determined.

Table 3 gives a survey of the values determined.

Example 15 (Comparison Example)

In an apparatus in analogy to Example 14, the same amount of terephthalic and isophthalic acid as well as ethylene glycol, tetramethylammonium hydroxide, and cobalt acetate tetrahydrate were placed as in Example 14. After the esterification was complete, under a slight vacuum 20 g Pural (hydrotalcite with about 60 percent magnesium) were added. The addition of phosphoric acid was not performed. The liquid phase polycondensation was performed and ended in the manner described in Example 14.

Example 16 (Exemplified Embodiment)

In an apparatus analogous to Example 14, a polycondensation was performed under the same conditions and with the same additives as in Example 15, but without isophthalic acid. Along with the hydrotalcite Pural (20 g), 80 g Irganox 1425 (phosphoric acid ester-based stabilizer from Ciba Geigy) was added to the reaction mixture.

Table 3 contains characteristic values for individual granulate fractions.

Example 17 (Exemplified Embodiment)

Analogous to Example 16, but with the quantity of isophthalic acid given in Example 14, 20 g Pural, and 20 g Irganox 1425.

10 Characteristic values of the granulate fractions are contained in Table 3.

Example 18 (Exemplified Embodiment)

Analogous to Example 17, but with 20 g Pural and 40 g Irganox 1425.

The characteristic values determined for individual product fractions are summarized in Table 3.

15 Example 19 (Comparison Example)

Analogous to Example 17, but with 20 g Pural and 40 g Irgafos 168.

Characteristic values of the granulate fractions are contained in Table 3

Example 20 (Exemplified Embodiment)

Analogous to Example 17, but with 20 g Pural and 40 g Irganox PEPQ.

20

Table 3. Characteristic values of various polyester fractions as a function of the catalyst-stabilizer system used.

a color fulfiber	**************************************	1.12		4.82		2.5		3.73		3.2			1.83		3.03
B*-color number	1.08	3.2	0.53	5.35	-4.61	-2.11	-0.31	3.42	7 5.4	+0.2-	99.0	1.98	3.81	-2.32	0.71
a IV (dJ/g)		0.035		0.093		0.021		0.068		0.046			0.073		0.048
Intrinsic viscosity (dl/g)		0.655	0.7051	0.6113	0.6463	0.6251	0.674	909:0	0.683	600	0.637	0.6848	0.6118	0.672	0.624
Stabilizer concentration (ppm)						1000		250		200			500		200
Stabilizer					,	Irganox 1425		Irganox 1425		Irganox	1425		Irgafos 168		Irganox PEPQ
Catalyst concentration (ppm)	640		Ç L	067	6	720		250		250			250		. 250
Catalyst		Antimony triacetate		Hydrotalcite		Hydrotalcite		Hydrotalcite		Hydrotalcite			Hydrotalcite		Hydrotalcite
Product fraction no.	-	4		4	_	9	_	5	_		~		5	V	. ~
Experiment	Example 14	(comparison example)	Example 15	(comparison example)	Example 16	(exemplified embodiment)	Example 17	(exemplified embodiment)	Example 18	(exemplified	embodiment)	Example 19	(comparison example*)	Example 20	(exemplified embodiment)

*Given as "exemplified embodiment" in text.

Tables 2 and 3 illustrate the advantages of hydrotalcites as catalysts for polycondensation reactions. Hydrotalcites at substantially lower concentrations have the same catalytic effectiveness as conventional polycondensation catalysts such as antimony compounds. In combination with the excellent food compatibility, with this new class of polycondensation catalysts an excellent alternative is provided to the currently commercially utilized catalytically active compounds.

5

10

15

The combination hydrotalcite/phosphoric acid ester or phosphorous acid ester permits the synthesis of polyesters with a very high thermal stability. The molecular weight breakdown during processing listed in Table 3 is more favorable than in the case of the polyesters produced under antimony catalysis.

In addition, the products are characterized by a low color tint.

The combination hydrotalcite/phosphoric acid ester or phosphorous acid ester can also used for the synthesis of other polyesters and for insertion of other monomers into polyalkylene terephthalate

CLAIMS

10

15

20

30

1. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions, characterized in that they are untreated or calcinated hydrotalcite-analogous derivatives of the general formula

 $[M(II)_{1-x}M(III)_x(OH)_2]^{x+}(A^{n-}_{x/n}).mH_2O$

- wherein M(II): divalent metals, M(III): trivalent metals, and A: anions, alone or in combination with phosphorus compounds that contain at least one hydrolyzable phosphorus-oxygen bond.
 - 2. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that M(II) is Mg or Zn or Ni or Cu or Fe(II) or Co.
 - 3. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions according to Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that M(III) is Al or Fe(III).
 - 4. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions according to any of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that A are carbonates, titanyls or borates.
 - 5. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions according to any of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the calcination of the hydrotalcite-analogous compounds is carried out at temperatures of 200°C to 800°C, preferably at 400°C to 650°C.
 - 6. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions in accordance with any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the polycondensation is carried out with the catalysts under vacuum in liquid phase at temperatures of 230°C to 280°C and in solid phase at temperatures of 170 to 240°C.
 - 7. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions in accordance with any of Claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the particle sizes of the hydrotalcites used are in the range of 0.1 to 50 μ m, preferably 0.5 to 5 μ m.
- 8. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions in accordance with Claim 1,25. characterized in that as the phosphorus compounds, phosphoric acid esters or esters of phosphorous acid are used.
 - 9. Catalyst systems for polycondensation reactions in accordance with Claim 8, characterized in that the catalyst system is used in the proportion, hydrotalcite to phosphorus compound, of 1:0.5 to 1:4, preferably of 1:1 to 1:2.
 - 10. A polycondensation product made using a catalyst as described in any of Claims
 1 through 9 characterized in that the product is substantially free of heavy metals.

11.A polycondensation product as in Claim 10 further characterized in that the product is suitable for use in bottles, sheets, films or fibers.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interna al Application No PCT/US 00/33386

			
A. CLASSI IPC 7	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C08G63/82 C08G85/00		·
According to	o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classific	ation and IPC	
	SEARCHED	-	
	ocumentation searched (classification system followed by classification	on symbols)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
IPC 7	C086		
Documental	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that s	such documents are included in the fields so	earched
Electronic d	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data ba	se and, where practical, search terms used	1)
WPI Da	ta, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data		
	•		
C DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	•	
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rel	evani passages	Relevant to daim No.
Calegory	Gilding, of Good Name of the Control		1,5,5,7,4,1,1,0,0,4,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1
χ .	US 5 721 305 A (ESHUIS, JOHAN JAN	I W. ET	1-4,6,7,
^	AL) 24 February 1998 (1998-02-24)		10,0,7,
	abstract; example 1		
Α	CAVANI F ET AL: "HYDROTALCITE-TY		1-5
	ANIONIC CLAYS: PREPARATION, PROPE	RTIES AND	
	APPLICATIONS" CATALYSIS TODAY,NL,AMSTERDAM,		
	vol. 11, 1991, pages 173-301, XPC	000537043	
	cited in the application		
	page 175		
	page 213 -page 215		•
Α	EP 0 172 636 A (WAKO PURE CHEM IN	ID I TD	1,10,11
^	:TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD (1,10,11
	26 February 1986 (1986-02-26)	. , ,	
	claims 9,11; example 1; table 1		
		,	
	· ·	./	
X Furth	ner documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed	in annex.
• Special ca	tegories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the inte	rnational filing date
	ent defining the general state of the art which is not sered to be of particular relevance	or priority date and not in conflict with cited to understand the principle or the	
'E' earlier o	document but published on or after the international	invention "X" document of particular relevance; the c	laimed invention
filing d	ate ont which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or	cannot be considered novel or cannot involve an inventive step when the do	be considered to
which	is alled to actablish the nublication data of another	"Y" document of particular relevance; the c	taimed invention
O docume	ent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	cannot be considered to involve an in- document is combined with one or mo	re other such docu-
other r	neans ent published prior to the international filing date but	ments, such combination being obvious in the art.	us to a person skilled
	an the priority date claimed	*&* document member of the same patent	family
Date of the	actual completion of the International search	Date of mailing of the international sea	arch report
2	2 March 2001	04/04/2001	
Name and n	nailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer	
	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk		
	Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Krische, D	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interna al Application No PCT/US 00/33386

		PCT/US 0	U/33386
	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		_
Category *	Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim No.
A	DATABASE CHEMABS 'Online! CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US; retrieved from STN Database accession no. 133:151341/DN, HCAPLUS XP002163660 abstract & VASNEV, V.A. ET AL.: VYSOKOMOL. SOEDIN., SER. A SER. B, vol. 41, no. 11, 1999, pages 1733-1738,		1,10,11
Α .	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 12, 25 December 1997 (1997-12-25) -& JP 09 208683 A (TEIJIN CHEM LTD), 12 August 1997 (1997-08-12) abstract		1-4
Α	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 005, no. 124 (C-066), 11 August 1981 (1981-08-11) -& JP 56 059864 A (KYOWA CHEM IND CO LTD), 23 May 1981 (1981-05-23) cited in the application abstract		10,11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/US 00/33386

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5721305	Α	24-02-1998	AU 1108795 A	03-07-1995
00 4			DE 69413710 D	05-11-1998
			DE 69413710 T	18-02-1999
			WO 9516723 A	22-06-1995
			EP 0734406 A	02-10-1996
			ES 2121333 T	16-11-1998
			JP 9506596 T	30-06-1997
EP 0172636	Α	26-02-1986	JP 6078425 B	05-10-1994
		,	JP 61028521 A	08-02-1986
			AT 39935 T	15-01-1989
			AT 39936 T	15-01-1989
			BG 61520 B	31-10-1997
			CA 1256638 A	27-06-1989
			CA 1236641 A	10-05-1988
			DE 3567470 D -	16-02-1989
			DE 3567471 D	16-02-1989
			EP 0171907 A	19-02-1986
			HK 19592 A	20-03-1992
			JP 6049185 A	22-02-1994
			JP 7033433 B	12-04-1995
			SG 108191 G	12-06-1992
			US 4683288 A	28-07-1987
			US 4677191 A	30-06-1987
JP 09208683	Α	12-08-1997	NONE	
JP 56059864	Α	23-05-1981	NONE	· ····································